



## May 2007 Newsletter



### **A Banner Year for Afterschool!**

The Iowa Afterschool Alliance membership worked incredibly hard this year to ensure their legislators knew about the need for afterschool and the IAA's recommendation that the General Assembly appropriate \$4 million for afterschool in Iowa. And your hard work paid off tremendously! The IAA is thrilled to report that \$3.5 million will be available for afterschool!

Legislators voted this year to make \$1 million available for grants for afterschool. In addition, \$2.5 million of new funding was appropriated for supplemental educational strategies that schools can use to ensure kids are keeping up with their peers academically. Before and afterschool programs are mentioned as a specific example of such a strategy in the legislation. The Governor has 30 days to sign all passed legislation.

The \$1 million came from three sources: the Healthy Iowans Tobacco Trust, the Education budget, and the Standings bill. However, Code has been written to allow these funds to be pooled into a single stream to be administered by the Iowa Department of Education. We anticipate an RFP to be released by the Department this summer. Last year's \$150,000 was awarded in three grants of \$50,000, and the RFP called for programs with strong community collaboration and a plan for sustainability.

The \$2.5 million is an entirely new funding source, and time will tell how it may be administered. Preliminary information suggests that schools/districts themselves would be the applicants. However, community-based programs would likely also qualify if they work in partnership with a school to improve student achievement through tutoring, homework help, or other types of academic activities. We would encourage any program who is interested in this funding source to ensure that school superintendents and administrators are well aware now of the value of their programs and how they support student learning so that partnerships and support are solidified before the RFP is released.

Many, many of you contacted your legislators before and during the session, which obviously made an impact. Just as important, we ask that you take a few moments and send a note of thanks to them now. Hand-written notes are much appreciated by legislators. Their home addresses are listed on the legislative webpage: [www.legis.state.ia.us](http://www.legis.state.ia.us).

Finally, a big, big thank you to all of you for your advocacy efforts. Because of your hard work—many of you for several years now—afterschool will be more available, accessible, and affordable for thousands more kids and families this year. If you'd like to be involved with the Iowa Afterschool Alliance's Policy Work Group, please contact Rachel Scott at [rscott@sppg.com](mailto:rscott@sppg.com) or Kevin Koester at [kkoester@ankeny.k12.ia.us](mailto:kkoester@ankeny.k12.ia.us).

**The Iowa Afterschool Alliance (IAA) Newsletter is a monthly venue of information and updates on afterschool programs and policies. For more information, please contact Rachel Scott at [rscott@sppg.com](mailto:rscott@sppg.com) or 515-243-2000.**

## Mark Your Calendar for Iowa's First Afterschool Conference!

The Iowa Afterschool Alliance is partnering with the Iowa School Age Care Alliance to hold a two-day professional development conference for afterschool staff and administrators. The Conference will be held on Friday, September 28 and Saturday, September 29, 2007 in Des Moines. More details to come!

## The Iowa Afterschool Alliance's Day on the Hill

The IAA's first-ever Day on the Hill on March 15th was a great success! With about 60 advocates and 52 legislators who stopped by, we had a packed room. Programs from Cedar Rapids, Des Moines, Ft. Dodge, and Keokuk brought kids, and legislators really enjoyed visiting with youth from elementary to high school age. Many of our more established afterschool champions were tied up in Committee meetings, so it was an amazing opportunity to share the issue with many folks who were new to the issue.



President of the Senate, Jack Kibbie, with kids from BLAST program (Fort Dodge)

## New Obesity Prevention in Afterschool Publication Available

The Finance Project has recently finished several new publications on afterschool programming and financing, including one titled, *Promoting Physical Activity and Healthy Nutrition in Afterschool Settings: Strategies for Program Leaders and Policy Makers*. These publications build upon their previous work in this area and include information on

finding funding, suggestions for applying financing strategies and strategies for partnership building. Please visit The Finance Project's website at <http://www.financeproject.org/irc/yp.asp> to access the series and to learn more about the project.

## Seeking Members for the IAA Quality Work Group

The Iowa Afterschool Alliance Quality Work Group has its work cut out for it... professional development for staff and program leaders, program evaluation and assessment, high standards for programs, continuous improvement processes.... All for a huge variety of programs and ages of children and youth served. Whew!

The Quality Work Group is seeking members representing some of the following interests:

- **Parks and recreation based programs**
- **Programs with an academic or arts focus**
- **Programs that serve older youth**
- **Programs focused on leadership and youth development**

Please contact Ben Banowetz at [bbanowetz@sppg.com](mailto:bbanowetz@sppg.com) if you are interested in finding out more.

## Announcing the Cedar Rapids Afterschool Alliance!

Afterschool providers in Cedar Rapids are interested in local networking, advocacy activities, and sharing ideas. An email list has been created—if you'd like to be added to the list, please email Brooke Findley at [bfindley@sppg.com](mailto:bfindley@sppg.com). The IAA is happy to support this and any other local networks in working together to better serve kids and families.